

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 17, 2012

www.op97.org

Important Dates

September 17-19

Free Dental Clinic

September 19

Tall Windy Sailing Field Trip

September 20

Curriculum Night

Dear Families,

Our first field trip is a sail on The Windy tall ship on Wednesday, September 19. Permission slips can also download a copy from the Wiki. <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/Permission+Slips>
Please be sure to bundle your child up (it is very cold on the lake) and send a bag lunch that is completely disposable.

If your child is interested in the EDGE classes, please be sure to send in the sign-up sheet and check this week.

You will have an opportunity to meet the 5th grade team at Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 20. Please plan to attend. We look forward to meeting you!

Art - As we complete our Elements of Art projects, we are learning about artist statements and how to write one to explain our artwork to others. Also, going home this week is a form for students who are interested in joining Art Club. We will meet on Wednesdays during recess and will be working on a variety of art projects including school murals, digital art projects and more. Students interested need to follow the directions and submit a letter of interest to me by 9/28.

Music -We will be using recorders in music this week. If your child cannot find their recorder they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to district 97 to music to purchase a new one. They also may purchase a recorder online from the Holmes store. Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. Financial assistance is available, if needed (email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org). Not having a recorder in class does effect their grade, so please email me with any concerns.

Spanish - We have been learning about the different countries where Spanish is spoken. Students have been completing maps and flags of the Spanish speaking world. Hispanic Heritage month is September 15th-October 15th!

Library - Reading Olympics forms were due Friday, September 14. Students participating in the program were able to begin checking out Reading Olympics books that day. Don't forget that a list of these books can be found on the media center website, and at the Oak Park Public Library, where they can also be checked out. The Holmes Reading Olympics competition will be on **Tuesday, November 20**. As we've been talking about how the library is organized, your student will be able to find the Reading Olympics books on his or her own, both in the school library and the public library. Ask him or her to show you how it's done! As always, please keep up with us on the library blog (holmesmediacenter.blogspot.com) and email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

This week we begin our first reading unit. The theme of our first unit is "Courage." Throughout this unit, students will read poems, nonfiction texts, fictional narratives, articles, primary source documents, etc that illustrate examples of courage. At the end of the unit, students will be required to write an essay answering the question, "What does it mean to be courageous." This first week, students will learn about what it means to take a stand. They will read a fictional narrative about discrimination and the civil rights movement, as well as a first hand account of the desegregation of our school system.

We will also begin our first round of literature circles using the book, The Breadwinner. Students will be assigned chapters to read, and a role sheet to complete, every Wednesday. These are to be completed by the following Wednesday.

Spelling and grammar homework will also begin this week. Look on the wiki or your child's homeroom teacher's webpage for page numbers and due dates.

Language Arts

During our our first unit of study in writing students will focus on investigating what it means to have strong personal character. This week students will pick one of the paragraphs they wrote last week to revising. We will specifically look to improve the word choice and sentence fluency of the piece.

Math

Today we began Unit 2, which covers addition and subtraction of decimals, and multiplication of whole numbers and decimals. Graded Unit 1 tests were also returned to students today, along with a self-assessment. Please review the Unit 1 test and the self-assessment with your child, **sign the self-assessment**, and have your child return it to his/her math teacher. Students who return the self-assessment on Tuesday will get 5 bonus Guilders!

Every 5th grade student needs a calculator. We still have plenty of TI-15 calculators available for purchase. If you would like a calculator, please send \$16 in cash or check payable to District 97. You may also purchase a calculator online from the District 97 web store.

Science

In science this week, we will study hydropower as an alternative energy source. We will analyze the Hoover dam and how it works and make a hypothesis about the height of the penstock and the force of the water. The experiment will have students use a two-liter bottle with pinholes to measure whether the water that comes out of the higher hole goes farther than the water from the lower holes. We are still in need of large pizza boxes for our solar experiment.

Social Studies

Big Question: What effect did the Spanish Conquistadors have on the Americas?

This week, we will be learning about how the Americas were colonized by Spanish explorers. The students will also be assigned an explorer research project. Each student will be choose an explorer they would like to learn more about and create a treasure chest that includes a map, timeline, journal entries and artifacts having to do with the explorer. This will be due October 9th.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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